

# Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

February 2021

Number 19

## HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



### **20¢ Black Heritage Series—Educator**

**Dr. Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950)**

**Issue Date:** February 1, 1984

**City of Issue:** Washington, DC

**Quantity Issued:** 120,000,000

This commemorative issue honors the "Father of Black History", Carter G. Woodson. Woodson overcame economic and social barriers to become the person most responsible for researching, writing and teaching about the heritage of Black Americans. In 1926, Woodson pioneered the acknowledgement of the second week in February as "Negro History Week." Today, the celebration has been extended throughout the entire month of February, and is known as Black History Month.

Carter G. Woodson was a Harvard-trained historian and author. He worked with other prominent African-Americans of his day, including Minister Jesse E. Moorland, founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life, an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements of Black Americans and others of African descent.

## Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

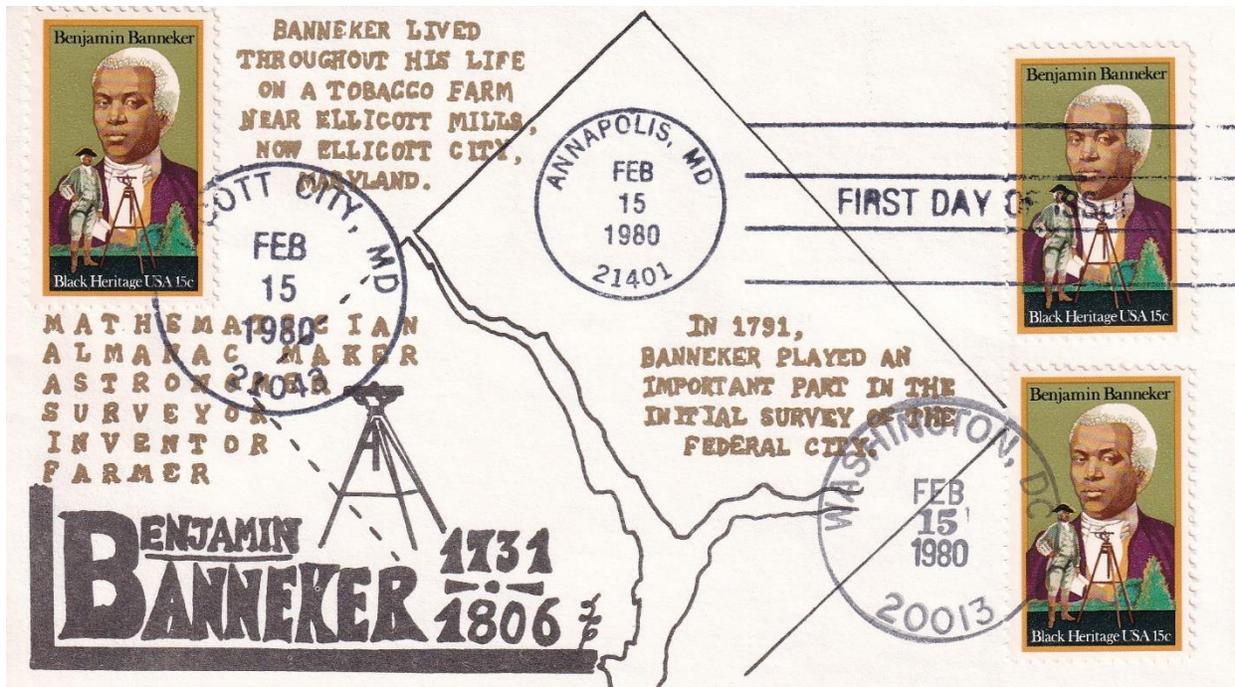
President Gerald R. Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.” Since then, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. – James Joppy

Accessed 1/8/2021, U.S. Postal Service - <https://uspsblog.com/celebrating-black-history-month/>

African American Heritage Stamp Club, Stamps.org

Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections, <https://www.esperstamps.org/>

National Museum of African Americans on Stamps, <https://www.nmaas.org/>



### A man of science and mathematics

On a trip to Annapolis a few years ago, my wife and I discovered a neat little museum nestled on one of the charming wheel-spoked streets of Maryland’s capital. The Banneker-Douglass Museum is Maryland’s official museum of African-American heritage. Housed in a former African Methodist Episcopal church, the museum has a community focus which is a fitting tribute to both of its namesakes; Benjamin Banneker and Frederick Douglass were natives of Maryland, and both are larger-than-life figures of African-American heritage.

## Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

Mr. Douglass was first memorialized on a stamp in the Prominent Americans series (1967). His likeness may also be found in your pocket, as an America the Beautiful quarter bearing his likeness was released in 2017. Mr. Banneker, a man of science and mathematics, helped to survey and plan Washington DC, and was memorialized on a stamp in 1980. For more information, visit the [Banneker-Douglass Museum \(maryland.gov\)](http://Banneker-Douglass Museum (maryland.gov)) website. – Scott Ney

## A Civil Rights Hero in Canada



In 1955, the momentum behind the civil rights movement in the United States became unstoppable with the Montgomery Alabama bus boycott. The non-violent refusal by Mrs. Rosa Parks to give up her seat on the bus to a white person is remembered as the act that set the boycott in motion. A decade earlier, a woman in the Canadian province of Nova Scotia made history for refusing to give up her seat in a segregated movie theater. She received a Canadian postage stamp in 2012, an honor long overdue. Her story is summarized on the back of this first day cover:

*When Halifax-born beauty shop owner Viola (Davis) Desmond's car broke down in New Glasgow, NS, on November 8, 1946, the 32-year-old decided to wait out the repairs at a movie at the Roseland Theatre. Unaware that African-Canadians were expected to watch from the balcony, she refused to leave her ground floor seat when asked and was dragged out, injuring her hip. She spent the night in jail, sitting upright, still wearing her white gloves. The following*

## Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

*morning she was charged with defrauding the province of the one-cent difference in the tax between the ground floor and the balcony seat and paid a \$20 fine. Thanks to Desmond's ensuing court case, Nova Scotia dismantled its segregation laws, and more than six decades later Desmond, who passed away in 1965, was pardoned by the province.*

A few years after her stamp was issued, in 2018, the same portrait of Viola Desmond graced the face of the \$10 bill in Canada. – Scott Ney

## Impressive Stamp Art

Stamp collecting isn't just about filling spaces in albums and mounting stamps onto exhibition pages. Stamps can also be turned into excellent pieces of art. Check out this video to see some very cool creations made with common stamps. It will arouse the creative side of your brain, and make you yearn for the big stamp shows that we've missed out on over the past year. Did you know that there was a time when people used Penny Blacks as wall paper? You can watch this video on YouTube, or without ads by visiting The National Museum of African Americans on Stamps ([www.nmaas.org](http://www.nmaas.org)) and selecting the Events and Activities tab; scroll down, and on the right you will see the "Be Creative-Stamp Art" video. – James Joppy ([164](#)) [Impressive Stamp Art at London Stampex - YouTube](#)

## Calendar of Events (Courtesy of the PSLC)

We are planning in 2021 to hold **Virtual Bi-Monthly Meetings**, which shall begin promptly at 6:30 PM and run for ~90 minutes via Zoom video conferencing. For details to attend these meetings please contact [Paul Petersen](#) via email ([pcpetersen@comcast.net](mailto:pcpetersen@comcast.net)) or call +1 (717) 299-5640. We usually hold a brief business meeting led by President DiComo, followed by our keynote speaker(s) and a Show & Tell, where Members & Guests can share in a few minutes their favorite stamp, cover, or other philatelic item(s) and take a question or two. We look forward to seeing you! And it is never too late to start planning ahead – speakers are requested. Please contact [Paul Petersen](#).

- February 10: *1890: The Jubilee Celebrations of the Penny Post*, by Michael Bach. With the issuance of the world's first postage stamp fifty years earlier by the U.K in 1840, many other countries followed suit. Along with the stamps often came some degree of needed postal reform. Reformer Rowland Hill agitated sufficiently until many of his ideas became law including uniform penny postage across the land. With this came improved literacy, greater communication, and a spawn of new businesses. In 1890, the 50th anniversary of this all was celebrated across the land. There were exhibits, gala events, speeches, and ephemera of all kinds. Member and collector Mike will elucidate this splendid Golden Anniversary.

## Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

February 24: *The Providence, R.I. Pre-Mailing Control Marking on the U.S. 3 Cent 1851-57 Stamp*, by Charles J. DiComo, PhD, President of PSLC & ESPHS. The re-discovery nearly 20 years ago of a number of covers and adhesives led to a re-examination of what had previously been termed a silent precancel on the U.S. 3¢ stamp, 1851-57 Issue. The adhesives have either a single horizontal and/or vertical ruled line (or both) in black pencil and/or red pencil (or both) spanning the stamp from edge to edge. An examination of over 600 Providence covers (and many more stamps) from 1851 through 1860 and the discovery of thirteen year-dated covers confirmed the period of use as April 1855 to October 1857. These control marked 3¢ adhesives were post-cancelled with the Providence, RI CDS and accepted for postage at the Providence PO. Brown University appears to be a main “account” holder, with other prominent businesses and families partaking, e.g.: Corliss Steam Engine Co.; H.F. Walling Publishers; Slade; Comstock; Steere, et al. This original research and remarkable story of ingenuity at the Providence, RI Post Office can now be shared. The lecture shall be followed by our ever-popular Show & Tell

- March 10: *The U.S. 1933 Byrd Antarctic Issue: Production, First Day and Other Uses*, by Alan Warren.
- March 24: *An Introduction to Revenue Collecting as Illustrated by Members*, led by Petersen & DiComo, PhD



### **A man who should be honored by a postage stamp**

Recently I've been moved to make a suggestion regarding a postage stamp that I'd like to see. As a collector I've never considered making such a suggestion, as I don't necessary collect

## Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

current issues, and at any rate there's plenty out there to collect as it is. But from time to time the hobbies that I engage in provide extra motivation to reach out and let the world know about things that are important to me.

So it was that I decided to make a submission to the Citizens Stamp Advisory Council to suggest a stamp in honor of civil rights pioneer Octavius Catto. You'd be excused for not knowing him, as a memorial that was recently put up at his grave site calls him a "forgotten hero". He lived in Philadelphia, where in recent years he's begun to get a small measure of the attention that he deserves. Here's a copy of the letter that I sent to the committee; I will share any response that I get. If you're interested in submitting an idea for a stamp, here is the spot where you can learn more about the process: [Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee - Who we are - About.usps.com](https://about.usps.com/citizens-stamp-advisory-committee/who-we-are). And if you agree with me that Mr. Catto would be a fine subject for a US Postage Stamp, you may write to let them know that as well. – Scott Ney

Stamp Development

Attn: Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300  
Washington, DC 20260-3501

January 1, 2021

Dear members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee,

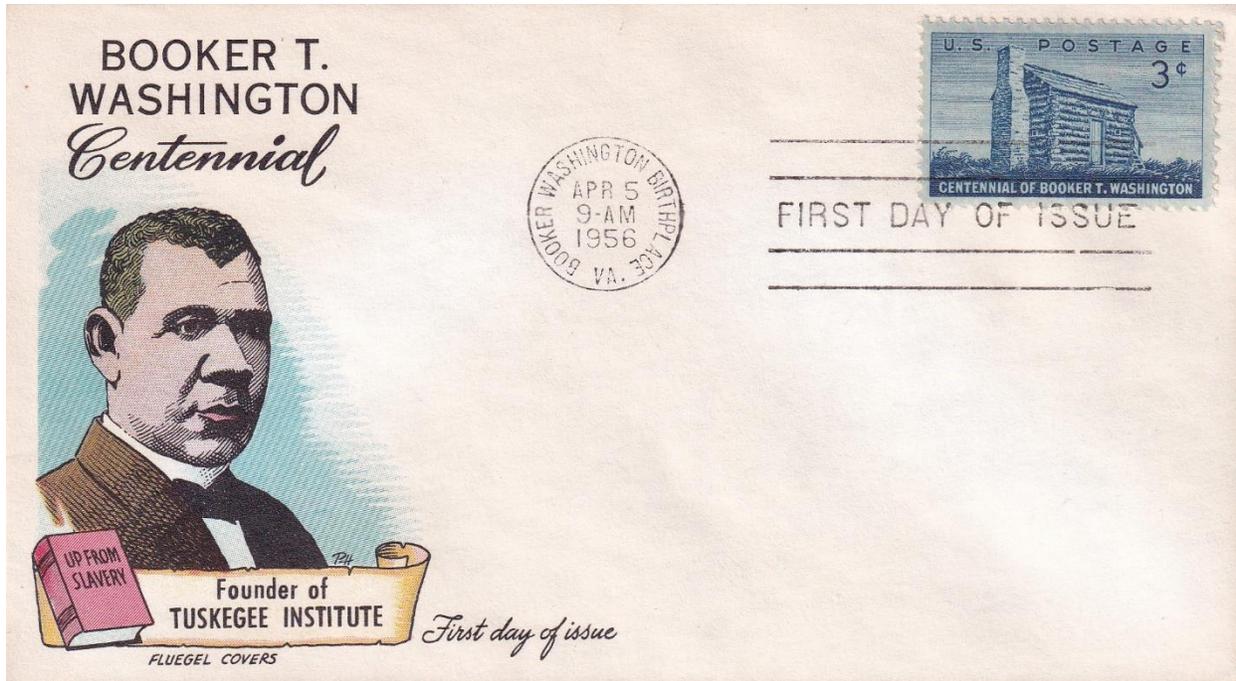
I would like to suggest the production of an Octavius Catto stamp for the Black Heritage series of commemorative stamp issues.

Octavius Catto is worthy of being memorialized on a United States Postage Stamp for his work as a civil rights pioneer. Mr. Catto worked with Frederick Douglass and others to support the Union cause during the Civil War, helping to raise eleven regiments of United States Colored Troops in the Philadelphia Area. After the war, Mr. Catto fought to desegregate Philadelphia's trolley system. His work resulted in the passage of a Pennsylvania law that prohibited segregation in transportation systems state-wide. Mr. Catto was murdered in Philadelphia on election day in 1871, shot three times by a white man. No one was ever held accountable for his murder.

In the past decade, there have been local efforts to memorialize Octavius Catto in the Philadelphia area. A new marker at his grave-site calls him "The Forgotten Hero". Wouldn't it be great if the United States Postal Service honored Octavius Catto with a postage stamp 150 years after his life of service ended? His heroic example of citizenship will be forgotten no more.

Sincerely,  
Scott Ney

## Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club



Booker T. Washington was the first African American to be honored on a US Postage stamp, in the Great Americans series of 1940. This cover is from the stamp issued to celebrate the centennial of his birth in 1956. The house where he was born in Franklin County, Virginia, was designated the Booker T. Washington National Monument. (Cover courtesy of Paul Petersen, PSLC)

### Market Square

Want lists, items for sale or trade, and notices of general interest will be found here in the market place. If you're a member of the LSCC and would like to place an "ad", please contact me at [stnst2@aol.com](mailto:stnst2@aol.com).

**Wanted:** Covers, maps, and any kind of ephemera from the Ney Post Office, which operated in the Cold Springs area of Lebanon County from 1881 – 1903. My great-great grandfather Elias Ney somehow had the honor of being the first postmaster there. If you are not interested in selling, or just have some historical info on the place, I'd still love to hear from you. Scott Ney [stnst2@aol.com](mailto:stnst2@aol.com)